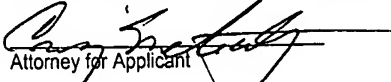


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 24, 2004.


Attorney for Applicant

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : (not yet assigned)
Applicant : David W. Schneider
Title : THIN AIRBAG MODULE
Filed :
TC/A.U. : (not yet assigned)
Examiner : (not yet assigned)
Docket No. : 14334

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement disclosing information which has come to the attention of applicant and/or his attorneys and is being submitted so as to comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), the enclosed Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the above-identified application or before the mailing date of a first Action on the merits.

Neither applicant nor his attorneys make any representation that any information disclosed herein may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or § 103. Moreover, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or as an admission that the

information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, transmitted herewith are:

1. A completed copy of Form(s) PTO/SB/08a and/or PTO/SB08b "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" listing the patents, publications and other information being submitted for consideration; and

2. A legible copy of each patent, publication and other item of information in written form listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08a, except for copies of U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications which are not required for applications filed after June 30, 2003.

As this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO/SB/08a are not required and, therefore, not included herewith.

NON-ENGLISH INFORMATION

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, following is a concise explanation of the relevance (as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information), of each listed patent, publication or other information that is not in the English language:

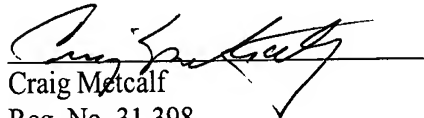
1. WIPO Patent Application No. WO 02/14117 published February 21, 2002 discloses: The invention relates to an occupant protection device for a vehicle with an inner part which consists of a dimensionally stable support part and a cover, said cover consisting preferably of a foamed intermediate layer and a decorative layer and being connected to said support part over a large area; and which is configured as an instrument panel. The occupant protection device has an airbag which can be inflated by means of a gas generator, whereupon the airbag penetrates a section of the inner part that thus open, entering the vehicle interior. According to the invention, the airbag is located between the support part and the cover in the form of a folded bundle.

2. European Patent Application No. 1 106 446 published June 13, 2001 discloses: The airbag cover which opens outwards under pressure of the opening airbag is flexible and designed to yield to the pressure of the inflating airbag. The airbag is mounted underneath the cover in a socket area connected to the support. The cover has tear lines to form a defined rip-open area. The airbag lifts up the cover to form an outward curvature and draws it along the tear lines.

3. Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2001-10435 published January 16, 2001 discloses: This airbag device includes an inflator formed with a mounting part, a retainer for retaining the inflator, and a bag disposed to cover the inflator on the retainer. The mounting part of the inflator, the retainer, and the bag are provided with respective holes, aligned with one another, and a shaft member is inserted into the holes and locked by a locking member to integrate the inflator, the retainer and the bag with one another. The shaft member includes a head, a shank extending from the head, and a locking part provided at the shank, and the locking member fits into the shaft member. The mounting part of the inflator, the retainer and the bag are sandwiched between the head of the shaft member and the locking member.

4. German Patent Application No. DE 195 38 594 published April 24, 1997 discloses: The airbag unit has stay bolts through a carrier plate for the gas generator, and an airbag folded round the gas generator. The stay bolts have external fluting, the receiving apertures in the carrier plate are of a smaller diameter than that of the bolts. The edge region of the receiving apertures has slits round its circumference. The projections between the slits fit in the fluting with some elasticity. The airbag has its edge zone between the carrier plate and the base generator base.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney for Applicant

Date: March 24, 2004

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> Sheet 1 Of 2		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	Not yet assigned
		Filing Date	March 24, 2004
		First Named Inventor	David W. Schneider
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
		Attorney Docket Number	14334

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
	U1	US-6,485,053	11/26/2002	Fujimoto et al.	
	U2	US-6,457,740	10/01/2002	Vaidyaraman et al.	
	U3	US-6,345,837	02/12/2002	Warnez et al.	
	U4	US-6,170,871	01/09/2001	Goestenkers et al.	
	U5	US-6,145,872	11/14/2000	Soderquist et al.	
	U6	US-6,120,057	09/19/2000	Adomeit et al.	
	U7	US-6,120,055	09/19/2000	Cuevas et al.	
	U8	US-5,904,370	05/18/1999	Steiner et al.	
	U9	US-5,797,619	08/25/1998	Bauer et al.	
	U10	US-5,718,449	02/17/1998	Numazawa et al.	
	U11	US-5,639,112	06/17/1997	Phillion et al.	
	U12	US-5,620,200	04/15/1997	Garner et al.	
	U13	US-5,577,763	11/26/1996	Cuevas	
	U14	US-5,566,973	10/22/1996	Green et al.	
	U15	US-5,560,642	10/01/1996	Davidson et al.	
	U16	US-5,547,213	08/20/1996	Lang et al.	
	U17	US-5,544,913	08/13/1996	Yamanishi et al.	
	U18	US-5,501,488	03/26/1996	Saderholm et al.	
	U19	US-5,470,100	11/28/1995	Gordon	
	U20	US-5,447,326	09/05/1995	Laske et al.	
	U21	US-5,320,379	06/14/1994	Burnard et al.	
	U22	US-4,101,146	07/18/1978	Oehm	
	U23	US-3,632,132	01/04/1972	Richardson	
	U24	US-2003/0173761	09/18/2003	Rink et al.	
	U25	US-2003/0132621	07/17/2003	Arieth et al.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> Sheet 2 Of 2		Complete if Known	
		Application Number	Not yet assigned
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		First Named Inventor	David W. Schneider
		Group Art Unit	
		Examiner Name	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	F1	WO - 02/14117	02/21/2002	Magna Eybl Systemtechnik GMBH		
	F2	EP- 1 106 446	06/13/2001	Acts Advanced Car Technology		
	F3	JP - 2001-10435	01/16/2001	T S Tec KK		
	F4	DE - 195 38 594	04/24/1997	Autoliv Dev		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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